



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

FEDERAL WAY SHOOTING FUGITIVE CAPTURED IN L.A.

Suspect wanted for Oct. 18 assault on federal agents

SEATTLE — A 22-year-old Salvadoran man suspected of shooting at federal agents here Oct. 18 was captured in Los Angeles Saturday and is awaiting return to Seattle.

Jose Wilber Sorto was arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, assisted by the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), while he was leaving a restaurant with five acquaintances who had traveled to Los Angeles with him.

Sorto is wanted for assaulting two ICE special agents in Federal Way, Washington by firing at them. No agents were injured in the assault.

Sorto's arrest follows an intensive five-day manhunt spearheaded by U.S. Marshals, ICE special agents, FBI agents, and police officers of the Federal Way and Seattle Police Departments. Two firearms were recovered at the scene of the arrest.

Sorto, who is also wanted on an outstanding, unrelated murder warrant in Seattle, was booked on a federal arrest warrant issued in the Western District of Washington in connection with the multi-agency investigation for assault on a federal officer.

"Anyone willing to shoot at federal agents automatically becomes a top priority nationwide," said Seattle ICE Special Agent-in-Charge Leigh Winchell. "All the officers and agents involved knew we had to quickly apprehend the suspect to protect the public. He'll now have to face federal and state charges in Seattle."

The three male acquaintances remain in custody on immigration-related charges.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.